

THE
ARTICLES,
Settlement and Offices
Of the FREE
SOCIETY
OF
TRADERS
IN
PENNSILVANIA.
Agreed upon by divers
MERCHANTS
And OTHERS for the better
Improvement and Government
OF
TRADE
IN THAT
PROVINCE.

LONDON,

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The PREFACE.

READER,

Honest and Industrious Traffique has been the Usage and the Praise of many Nations ; And in this all Countries seem Agreed, that their Wealth and Strength are Begun , Continued and Increased by it : A Truth common Experience daily Confirms : For this hath made and is making many Princes and States in the World endeavor to have their Subjects prosper in Trade. The very Indian Princes are now convinced of this Truth, which makes the King of Bantam send his Embassadour here. This is likewise the Reason, why many considerate men have thought fit to joyn themselves in a Society of Trade in Pennsylvania ; which after some Difficulty they have Accomplished. But this may be modestly said, It is a very Unusual Society , for it is an Absolute Free One, and in a Free Country : A Society without Oppression ; wherein all may be concerned that will ; and yet have the same Liberty of private Traffique, as though there were no Society at all. So that this Society is Calculated both to Promote the Publique Good, and to Encourage the Private. And indeed it seems not possible, that Province should be Improved in many Years without it, as it is like to be in a

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few Years by it. However, it is such a Society, as can do harm to none ; but may do good to all : Which a serious perusal of the Government of it will plainly Evince to the considerate and Ingenious. We may add, that 'tis no small Conveniency and Ease to the minds of Planters (happily unacquainted in Trade) that they may have some part of their Estates improving in an united way and Care, whilst they thereby may with less Distraction and more Freedom of Spirit, apply themselves to their particular Plantations. For here a few Hands do the Work of the whole ; and by this honest and free Device, the whole will be furnish'd fresh and fresh, from time to time in the nature of a Bank. This Union of Traffique prevents Emulation ; for every One is Interested in every Ones prosperity ; and the Profit must be greater and surer ; and Navigation, Manufacture and Arts better Improved, than by the Force of private and divided Stocks. To Conclude, 'tis an Enduring Estate, and a lasting as well as certain Credit : a Portion and Inheritance that is Clear and Growing ; free from the mischief of Frauds and False Securities ; supported by the Concurrent Strength and Care of a great and prudent Body, a kind of perpetual Trustees ; the Friend of the Widdow and the Orphan, for it takes no advantage of Minority or Simplicity. These and many more great Advantages Accrew to a Society so Freely Constituted as this appears to be by the ensuing Articles of Agreement, which are Imposed on none, but recommended to all with this assurance, that nothing is hereby intended, but what is consistent with Justice and Prudence ; to the
best

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best of their Skills that were concerned in the Framing of it : And it is hoped that the Improvements which may accrew by it, will prove of no small advantage to that Country, and Old England from whom it takes its Original.

To which Reader, it may not be improper to add, that this Society is endowed with divers Immunities and Priviledges, by Grant and Charter from William Penn the Governour of that Province.

London, 25. 1st Mo. called March, 1682.

Nicolas More,
James Claypoole,
Philip Ford.

J. D. A. 1129-11

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THE
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IT is Agreed, That the *First General Court* shall be held at *London*, upon the *Twenty Ninth* of the *Third Month* called *May*, 1682. And forever after, the *General Court* shall be held on the *First Fifth Day* called *Thursday* in the *Ninth Month* (*November*) every Year after in the *Capital City* in *Pennsilvania*, where *Votes* shall be Received by Letters to the *Society's Secretary*, from all that do not appear there personally, for the chusing of *Officers*: Which *Votes* shall be Regulated by these following *Conditions*:

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IMPRIMIS.

That none in *England* shall have above *One Vote*, whatever *Sum* they *Subscribe*; unless they have a *Share* of *Land* in *Pennsylvania*, at least *One thousand Acres* of their own, with some *Inhabitants* upon it: In such Cases they shall have their *Votes* proportionably to their *Stocks*, as in the following Article.

ARTICLE II.

That all that are *Inhabitants* in *Pennsylvania*, shall have for two *Twenty five* pounds, *one Vote*; and each *Fifty pound* single, *one Vote*; *one hundred* pounds, *two Votes*; *three hundred* pounds, *three Votes*, and none more.

ARTICLE III.

That the *Book* of *Subscriptions* shall be open here in *England*, till the *twenty ninth* day of the *fourth Month* called *June*, *One thousand six hundred eighty two*, and no longer. And in *Pennsylvania* from the *Arrival* of the *first Ship* belonging to the *Society* for *six Months* after, paying *fifteen per Cent* *Sterling* in Consideration of the *Risco* Run by the *Society* by such as *Subscribe* within *thirty daies*, and for every *Month* after *one per Cent.* to be added to value of the *Cargo*.

ARTICLE IV.

That none shall *Subscribe* in the *Societys Stock* less than *twenty five pounds*. Yet if *five* Joyn together, and make up the *twenty five pounds* (provided it be *subscribed* in *one man's name*) it shall be accepted of but in that Name only.

ARTICLE V.

That at the *first General Court* or *Assembly* held as abovesaid (*viz.* the *twenty ninth* of the *third Month* alias *May*, 1682.) all the *Subscribers* here in *England* shall Confirm their *Subscriptions*, which shall be by the depositing *five per Cent.* as a part of that, which

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which shall then be *Agreed* on to be paid *within a Month* after. And at that time shall be *Chosen* the *Officers* of the *Society*, viz. The *President*, the *Deputy*, the *Treasurer*, the *Secretary* and *twelve Committee-men*, whereof any *Five* and the *President* or his *Deputy* shall make a *Quorum*.

ARTICLE VI.

That all the *Committee-men* shall have but *one Vote* a piece in the *Committee*, whatever their *Stock* be; and the *President* or the *Deputy*, if the *Votes* be *Equal*, shall have the *Casting Voice*.

ARTICLE VII.

That at *seven years* end, from the time of *shutting* the *Book* in *Pennsilvania*, it shall be *opened* again for *New Subscribers*; and so to *Continue* for *every seven years*; a *due Valuation* of the *Stock* being first made by the *Committee*, that so every one may *Subscribe* according to the *Valuation* then *Agreed* on.

ARTICLE VIII.

That *Two hundred Servants* be sent away the *first Tear*, of such *Trades* and *Capacities* as may be most for the *benefit* of the *Society*; which is to be *Adjudged* by the *Committee*.

ARTICLE IX.

That it shall be *Lawful* for any one that has *Subscribed*, to add to their *Subscription* before the *Month* is out, what *Sum* they please.

ARTICLE X.

That none shall be *President*, *Depnty* or *Treasurer*, that have not *five thousand Acres* of *Land* in *Pennsilvania* of their own, and *one hundred pound* in the *Societies Stock*.

ARTICLE XI.

That the *General Officers* shall continue for the *First seven years*,
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and then a new *Election* shall be made, they being fixed in their *Abode* in the *Society's-House*, there to act for the *Society*, without change of their power in *Priviledges*, except they do Commit any act *destructive* or *prejudicial* to the *Real Interest* of the *Society*, which first is to be proved sufficiently in the *Court of Assistants*; and then the *Offender* or *Offenders* are to be dismissed, and the *Court of Assistants* to chuse another, who is to Continue till the *General Court*; which *Court of Assistants* shall yearly be Chosen and added to the *Committee*.

ARTICLE XII.

That the *President* shall Call together the *Court of Assistants* to help and advise in any Emergent occasions relating to the *Society*, as To receive more Money, To make a Dividend, To chuse new Officers in Case of Death, To settle new Factories, To enter upon Mines, Build Ships, &c.

ARTICLE XIII.

The *Committee* shall chuse all *Inferiour Officers*, as *Store-House-Keepers*, *Clerks*, *Book-Keepers*, *Factors*, at home and abroad; then they shall direct, what shall be Planted, Built, &c.

ARTICLE XIV.

That all *Forfeitures*, that shall arise, shall be Employed upon the *Improvement* of a parcel of *Land* allotted for the maintenance of such their *Wives* and *Children*, who have been disabled in the service of the *Society*.

ARTICLE XV.

That the *Society's Books*, *Patents*, *Records* and *original Papers* be kept in a *Convenient* place in the *House* under three *Locks* and *Keys*, one whereof shall be kept by the *President* or *Deputy*, the other by the *Treasurer*, the third by the *Eldest Committee-man*.

ARTICLE XVI.

That these *Books*, *Papers* and *Patent*, &c. shall not be Intrusted
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in the hand of any single person for longer space than to *transcribe* any part of it in the *day time*, and in the House before some *one* or *more* appointed by the *Committee*; and that the *Book-keeper* shall only have *Copies* of them, which may be Viewed or Perused *once a Month* by any *Member* of the *Society*, who desires it; *All Originals* to be kept as before.

ARTICLE XVII.

That *Security* shall be taken of the *Treasurer* and of all *Servants* relating to the *Society*, that is, such as have any *Trust* Committed unto them, as *Agent*, *Store-keepers*, *Ship-Masters*, *Clerks*, *Over-seers* and *Servants*, &c. and those to be given by Persons of known *Honesty* and *Estate*. And those *servants* shall be bound to keep the *secrets* of the *House*, that is, not to give *Intelligence* to any Person, no, not to any *Member* of the *Society* (without leave first obtained publicly in the *Committee*) upon forfeiture of their *security*.

ARTICLE XVIII.

That if the *Society* should receive *Blacks* for *servants*, they shall make them *free* at *fourteen years* end, upon *Consideration* that they shall give into the *Society's Ware-house* *two thirds* of what they are *Capable* of producing on such a *parcel* of *Land* as shall be allotted them by the *Society*, with a *stock* and necessary *Tools*, as shall be *Adjudged* by the *Society's Surveyor*. And if they will not accept of these *terms*, they shall be *servants* till they will accept it.

ARTICLE XIX.

That no *Mineral Undertaking* shall be begun by the *Committee* without the approbation of the *General Assembly*.

ARTICLE XX.

That the *Committee* shall at every *Yearly Meeting* of the *General Court* discover the *Incouragement* or *Discouragement* they meet with in the *Course* of their *Trade* both at *home* and *abroad*.

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ARTICLE XXI.

That the *Society* may set up *two or more General Factories* in *Pennsylvania*, one upon *Cheasapeak-Bay*, and the other upon *Delaware River*, or where else the *Committee* shall see necessary for the more speedy Conveyance of *Goods* in the *Country* and *Mary-land*: but that the *Government* of the *whole* be in the *Capital City* of *Pennsylvania*.

ARTICLE XXII.

That the *Society* shall be *Assisting* to the *Indians* in their settling in *Towns* and other places, both by *Advice* and *Artificers*.

ARTICLE XXIII.

That there shall be *Twenty four Assistants* added to the *Committee*, whereof *twenty* and the *President* or *Deputy* makes a *Quorum*.

ARTICLE XXIV.

That the *First Assembly* in the *Province* of *Pennsylvania* shall be desired to *Ratifie* the *Patent* *Granted* by the *Governour* to this *Society* by an *Act* of *Assembly*.

ARTICLE XXV.

That all the *Members* of the *Committee* and *Court* of *Assistants* shall have timely and sufficient notice and *summons* in writing left at their *Dwelling*, of every intended *Court*, to prevent *Indirect* and unjust *Proceedings*.

ARTICLE XXVI.

That all and every one, who have *subscribed* any *sum* in the *Society's-stock*, and shall not after the *second summons* bring in their *second Payment*, shall be incapable of disposing of that *part* in the *stock* before disbursed; but the *Society* shall dispose of the same unto

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unto such who will fulfill the *Agreement* in all *payments*; they only being Capable of Receiving their *first Penny* or disbursement. Always excepted such, who through any *Calamities* have been reduced to *Poverty*, whereby they are Rendred *Incapable* to fulfill the same; that then the thing being proved before a *Committee*, they shall have power to sell the same to the best *Advantage*. And as this is *Agreed* on for the *second payment*, so it is of all others, it there be more.

ARTICLE XXVII.

That there shall be in *England* a *Chief Agent*, Superiour to all *Agents* or *Factors* belonging to the said *Society*, that are in *Europe*, unto whom the *Society* shall direct their *Letters* and consign their *Goods*: He shall have a *Council* of six *Factors*, one of which shall be his *Deputy*. This *Council* shall, with him, Reside in *London*; and shall on all occasions meet to Advise together, how to dispose of the *Society's Goods*, and buy such *Goods* as the *Society* shall direct to be bought, to Execute all other Orders, as shall be required of him or them. And to give every *Factor* his *Commission*, how to proceed in what pertains unto his place: So that all and every one of them shall Act by the *Advice* of the *Chief Agent*, and he by the Order of the *Committee* in *Pennsylvania*; All these being Chosen by the *General Assembly*, they giving good and sufficient security to the *Society* for their true and faithful service.

ARTICLE XXVIII.

That the *President*, *Deputy*, *Secretary*, *Treasurer*, *Surveyor* and all the *Servants* of the *Society* shall bring into the *Society's Warehouse*, what *Peltry* they buy of the *Indians* in their Respective *Plantations* with their own private *Goods*: This shall be Entred in the *Books* of the several *Offices* to prevent *Fraud*. Those *Goods* shall be sent over with the *Society's Goods*, and shall have what *Return* they will for the same, allowing to the *Society*, *Fraight*, *Factorage*, &c.

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ARTICLE XXIX.

That it shall be *Lawful* for *all*, who will bring their *Goods* to the *Society's Ware-house*, so to do and to have the same *Returns*, as they shall desire. This being *granted* and *Allowed*, will bring in most of the *Countries Goods* in the *Society's* hands, which will in time prove the *great Advantage* of the *Society*; and most *Eminently* to the *Planters*, who are not able to send into *England*, where possibly they may be deceived by their *Factors* or *Attorneys*, they having in the *Society* the greater *security* Imaginable for their *Effects*.

Some of the *Officers* and *Offices* for the *SOCIETY*,
Viz. *President*, *Deputy*, *Treasurer*, *Agent*, *Secretary*, *Surveyor*, *Twelve Committee-men*, *Chyrurgion*, *Factors*, *Clerks*, *Overseers*, *Messengers*, *Porters*, *Butchers*, *Water-men*, *Carr-men*, &c.

The *Four Offices* for the *Society*.

The Secretary Office.

TO this Office shall belong the *Book-Keeper*, the *Factors*, *Chyrurgeon*, *Clerk* of all *Offices*, *Messengers*, *Overseers*, *Water-men*. The *Secretary* shall be alwaies ready to receive *Orders* of the *President* or *Deputy* for the Execution of all *Warrants* to be Issued out abroad, to write all *Letters*, &c. for the *Society's* Service, and to direct the *Plantations* in their *Duties*, as the *President* and *Courts* are Agreed on to be done: As when any *Ships* are going Out, then to write to *Factors* abroad, &c. When any *Factors* are wanting *Supplies* of *Goods*, to give *Warrants* in the *Treasury-Office* for the same under the *Presidents* own Hand and Seal, or his *Deputy*; and nothing delivered without this Method. And when *Goods* are brought in, then to take *Account* of the same, and give an *Account* to the *President* of them, and Enter them in that Office also. If any *Servant* Dyeth, to receive Information of it, and make Record. If any *Run away*, to receive Information, and take Order of the *President* about it, &c. If any be *Sick*, to Issue *Warrants* for their help by the *Presidents* Order, &c. If *Cattle* Dye, to Record it; If any be *Increased*, to Record the *Place*, *Kind*, *Number*. To receive

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receive every Week a particular Account of all Overseers, Factors, &c. of all Increases and Decreases of Trade, &c.

The Treasury Office.

TO this Office shall belong the TREASURER, Two Clerks, Porters, Butchers, Water-men, Carr-men, Chyrurgeon, Husbandmen, Handicrafts, &c, every one of them giving Account to the Treasurer of their Works, and all to be Recorded in the Treasury-Office, and to be Transmitted into the Secretary's-Office every seven daies, and all those Officers and Servants to be directed in their Proceedings by Warrants from the President or his Deputy, and nothing to be delivered out without the same, to prevent Deceit, &c. And that there shall be Two Ware-houses, one for Exportation, and the other for Importation : Unto each of them shall belong a Clerk to keep Journals of Goods Come In and Gone Out ; and to keep the Warrants from the President for their Security. And that if any Goods are received in, and not Recorded in the Secretary and Treasury-Office within two daies, it shall be a Forfeiture of such Penalty thought fit to be Imposed by the Court of Assistants.

The Surveyor's Office.

TO this Office shall belong the Surveyor, an Assistant, a Clerk, a Searcher.

This Surveyor shall View all Ships, and what is thereunto belonging, whether fit to be made use of for the Society's Service or no ; and make Report to the President. He shall Oversee all Overseers, Servants, their Works, and make Record of them all, giving Information of all things in the Secretary-Office, and to the President or his Deputy ; and keeping Record in his Office of the same. He shall see all Goods Shipped Safely and others Landed ; He shall view all Ware-houses, their Goods that they be kept well, &c. That all Warrants from the President, be duly put in Execution, Survey all Entries and Invoices, all Buildings, all Cattles, &c. that the Society may not suffer by any ; keeping a Journal of all things which are every seven daies to be Compared with the Secretary-Office, where all things are to be Recorded. And Record being duly made, all the Books to be signed by the President or his Deputy, and afterwards to stand for good and Just Actings in the

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the Court of Committee and Assistants: And this being passed, never more to be recalled.

The Miner's Office.

TO this Office shall belong an *Agent, Clerks, Miners, Refiners, Brick-makers, Tile-makers, Potters, Lime-burners, &c.*

The *Agent* shall daily receive Informations from the *Miners, &c.* of what is done, and make *Record* of it in his Office, and shall be signed by the *clerk* and himself. Then to send it to the *Secretary-Office* every seven daies there to be *Recorded*; the *President* or *Deputy* having approved the same. And the *Agent* shall Answer for all *Defaults* and *Wrong* done to the *Society* in any of the things, that are under his *Custody*, until they are *Recorded* and *Received* in the *Custody* of the *Treasurer*.

These are the Heads, upon which the *Society* is to be *Governed*, and the *Offices* by which all is *Administred* and secured from *Fraud* and *Deceit*. What further is necessary for the same, must be left to the *Wisdom* of the *President* and *Court of Assistants*, who in time may give an *Exact Account* of other things relating thereunto.

For the *Conveniency* of such who are desirous to *Subscribe* to *The Stock* of this *Society*, if they please to *Apply* themselves to *Philip Ford* in *Bow-Lane* near *Cheap-side*, there their *Subscriptions* may be *Entred*.

THE END.

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